

I am writing in major (but not total) support of RM-10784. I would like to see Element One retained as a requirement for the Amateur Extra license class. There are several reasons for this. First is that proficiency with Morse Code/continuous wave is not just a matter of how well one hears dots and dashes. It also involves skills such as transceiver operation, careful listening, and a knowledge of propagation which are not so well practiced in any other mode of operation. Thus, the highest-class licensee should be able to have some proficiency in this kind of practice. Second, the use of CW still has value in emergency communications, despite the proliferation of other modes. No other mode allows a message to be sent with less equipment or more reliably. Although many countries are eliminating CW requirements, I believe that this is a mistake and the Amateur Radio service world-wide will suffer as a result. I do not support RM-10784's suggestion that HF privileges be given only to General class licensees. Giving what were formerly called Novice privileges to current Technician licensees is an encouragement for them to learn to use HF responsibly and hopefully to learn the use of CW.